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# energetic actors charm audience

by Susie Dailey

If you haven't recently discovered the simple gaiety of childlike imagination, then you haven't seen Story Theater. All those unbelievable fables, fairy tales, and nursery rhymes from our childhood are acted out before our eyes and once again become real and believable episodes. Fantastic characters leave us helpless with laughter and we are swept away with the huzzling energy of the performers.

"Storybook Tales" is an excellent example of the professional quality of Avila's Actors Laboratory Theater, functioning under the direction of Sister Felice Helmes and James Assad. This new method of dramatic presentation was originated by Paul Sills of Chicago's Second City. Being extremely creative and dedicated, the Avila actors have successfully brought to us it's feeling of

unhindered freedom and a chance for the audience to be more than spectators.

From the beginning of the performances to the end, the pace never slows or dulls, and the scenes and stories melt smoothly into each other. Somehow, it reminds one of a child's tireless play. Also reminiscent of younger days is their method of being both character and story teller at the same time. There are no visible props or settings — these are created out of the actors' and audience imagination. Sound

effects are handled by either the actors themselves or a musical combo hidden behind the audience. The musicians are also a vital part of the fairy tales, adding depth to their humor with a rendition of "I'm Not Your Stepping Stone" to

Yertle the Turtle's request for a bigger pile of turtles to sit on, and "Feel Like

I'm Fixin' to Die Rag" for the well known story of Henny Penny.

It is impossible to elaborate on the more striking character performances because, modestly speaking, they are all very good. The "best" ones are simply the ones which a particular individual

might have liked more than others. Some of these memorable performances are a very simple Simpleton, a con-man fox, a sexy "Goosey — Poosey," a howling old hound, creeping turtles, plenty of kings, peasants, parsons, robbers, and talking animals of every kind. But to mention some might imply

that the others were less enjoyable and that is simply not the case. So for an evening of hilarious laughter and very professional entertainment, the Actors Laboratory Theatre is the place to go and "Storybook Tales" is what to see.



Scenes from "Storybook" theatre



## newsbriefs

The success of the Drama department's "Story Book Tales" has been outstanding. Giles Fowler's review in "The Kansas City Star" was amazingly complimentary. According to one Drama major "it put Avila College on the map."

Would you believe that there is a powerfully creative community of artists dwelling in the basement of the new dorm? Well, it's true, the spacious new art department provides the uninhibited atmosphere for unlimited development of any idea — either within or outside the realm of imagination. It may not appear to be worthy of the costs of tuition involved, but what more does an artist need than the proper materials, an open area, a little dirt and lots of freedom?

It has been a great honor for Sister Margaret Reinbart, Sister Colette Doering and Mrs. Colette Bangert that their display which was on show for the month of September has been moved to the Midwest Research Institute and was on exhibition in the gallery for the month of October. This Institution on Volker Road does many interesting projects, researching various subjects as drugs, transportation, and soil.

The social work students have a project in the Pennway and West Bluff Housing units and are sponsoring a

BAKE SALE to support it. Modeling, arts and crafts, sewing, advanced art and a boys club have been initiated. Money is needed for supplies and activities.

There is an exhibit of Computer Generated Drawings by Colette and Charles Bangert in the alumni lounge in Marian Center which will be in progress

through November 28. The Bangerts also have a talk on Computer Graphics scheduled for November 15 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 203-204 of O'Reilly Hall.

## CEC SPONSORS SIBLING PANEL

On November 10, 1971, CEC is sponsoring a sibling panel. This panel will consist of brothers and sisters of retarded children. They will tell how they feel about their brother or sister and how they learned to relate to them.

All students are asked to attend. If you would like to participate on the panel contact either Mrs. Barbara Myers, or Georgia Woods.

## Media Award Winner to Speak

On Thursday evening, November 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Alumnae Lounge of Marian Center the Free Fall staff will host an outstanding area journalist, Mrs. Lois Lauer Wolfe, owner and publisher of Kansas City Suburban Newspapers Inc. Mrs. Wolfe will speak on creative trends in modern journalism, after which a question and answer session will be held. All members of the student body, the faculty and the administration are invited to attend. After this session, Mrs. Wolfe will meet with the members of the Student Publications Workshop for the purpose of directing the students especially in the area of layout. She will also give professional criticism of this year's issues of Free Fall.

Lois Wolfe holds a Bachelor of Arts degree as well as a Master's degree in Journalism from the University of Kansas in Lawrence. Mrs. Wolfe has a personal interest in journalism education and has done much work with high school and college students through workshops, seminars, and speaking engagements. She has been awarded the

"1971 News Media Award" for contributions to scholastic journalism in Missouri by the journalism teachers of the state.

Mrs. Wolfe's major publication, the Jackson County Sentinel, in Blue Springs, Missouri, has won awards for general excellence which includes awards in every specific area of news printing. Lois Wolfe has distinguished herself nationally as a recipient of the first place award in the presswomen's contest for newspapers published by women sponsored by the National Federation of Press Women. Mrs. Wolfe is also acting chief editor of the organization's official magazine.

The Free Fall staff encourages all to attend and take advantage of this opportunity to become informed and knowledgeable concerning newest trends in journalism.



respond

## Are you the 'silent majority'?

America...founded upon the ideology of democracy...a government ruled "of the people, by the people, and for the people"...a foundation which can be jolted and crushed into insignificant bits of fallacy if 'the people' choose to ignore their most obvious form of power — the ballot box.

The word has been out for sometime now that eighteen year olds have the right to vote in all national elections. A number of citizens are perhaps still questioning such a monumental decision on the part of President Nixon. Has he dug his own grave?

Possibly, Nixon is not the American youth's favorite politician, but will there be a significant number of young people who exercise their newly obtained right? How many have registered in their districts and are speculating on the 1972 elections? How many can vote in state elections and have failed to do so?

Certainly, the 'silent majority' can remain as such, but they must also suffer the consequences of their own ill choice. What is the logic behind useless negation in varying forms of slander and criticism once the tool of effective change has been flagrantly tossed aside?

Issues and leaders cannot always be considered superficially. Therefore, in order to make the best choices for our government, each responsible individual should first of all educate himself to these aspects and then vote conscientiously.

If the 'silent majority' speaks, they can improve, change and move mountains of political power, economic progress, and nation well-being. If they choose to remain silent, we may all suffer the consequences.

p.d.

## 'C.O.' — commanding officer?

Imagine yourself a 19 year old man at a greater or lesser degree of maturity. You are going to college and majoring in any one of a hundred fields in which you have completed your first year successfully. Good for you... Then one morning the mail comes in — YOU'VE BEEN DRAFTED!

This is what happens to thousands of American men every year! Is it an unjust action of the part of the American government or the duty of ALL American men? No, it is not.

Today many young men conscientiously object to participation in the armed forces. Reasons of politics, morals, religion or humanitarian pursuits tend to make participation impossible. This does not mean however, that they are opposed to all wars. Some DO believe in wars of liberation, national defense, and extremist dictatorships. In each case a man examines a certain type of war through his own personal beliefs. If he is convinced the war is unjust, he conscientiously objects to participation in the armed forces, or accepts induction but refuses to take orders, the latter being the most difficult.

You are a 19 year old man again. Decisions of life and the possibility of death are thrust upon you with unmerciful speed... now, make the right decision!

damian arrendondo

Dear Editor:

On Wednesday night, October 13, 1971, someone who didn't give a "damn" about himself or anyone else went into room 217 and stole over \$35.

This money was to be used by CEC to sponsor a Halloween Party for a group of small retarded kids — one that they would have remembered all the days of their life.

I'm writing this letter as an appeal to this individual, in the hopes that he will return the stolen money or compensate for this loss. I also challenge him or her to this question: "Does this money mean more to you than it would mean to these small children?"

Thanks for everything.

Sincerely,  
Octavia Barnes

P.S. If you would like to return the money please slip it under my door or under the door of the Education Department office. No questions will be asked.

## classified ads

FREE FALL will offer classified advertising space in all issues. Rates are \$.50 per 15 words and \$.03 for each additional word. Ads may be placed in the "Letters to the Editor" box in O'Reilly Hall.

## who's who?

'Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities' provides a national, democratic basis for recognition of outstanding campus leaders. First published in 1934, this directory has appeared annually. It is a unique publication which now includes thousands of listings from over one thousand schools in all fifty states, the District of Columbia and several foreign nations in North and South America.

The qualifications for election to this distinguished group are that the student be a college senior, junior or graduate student who is currently involved in the academic pursuit of higher education.

Nominations for membership in this elite club are made by the faculties, administrations and student government representatives of the participating colleges and universities. The Staff of FREE FALL would like to extend congratulations to the 1971-72 nominees from Avila College: Kathy Aylward, Marilyn Esser, Teddy Failone, Cathy Fick, Kerry Lenninger, Kathy Riggs, Marty Rupp and Elaine Strope.



## NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

The exciting mode of dramatic presentation used in "Storyhook Tales" was originated by Paul Sills of Chicago's Second City and is now realizing great success in a few key areas. Unencumbered by complicated sets, props and costumes, this genre provides a springboard for new material for the stage. Most important is the fact that it gives theatre back to the actor and his audience. In this respect, it is ideal material for the intimacy of our Actors Laboratory Theatre and a logical companion to our two other "audience-oriented" repertory productions. When told of the hopes of our Department, Mr. Sills kindly offered us his advice and suggested that we: "Take a chance... work with the actors and... what sounds right is right." In its attempt to provide an environment for creativity, professional training and exciting theatre on the Avila Campus, the Actors Laboratory Theatre welcomes his advice and is happy to bring forward its most valuable asset: young, fresh,

dedicated actors in an evening of "improvisational" theatre.

"A Day if the Death of Joe Egg" is a comedy. It is not a sick comedy nor is it a comedy about a spastic child; rather, its concerns are with a man who must function as a father, husband and son and who struggles to "grow up" with the strangling commitments of these multi-roles. How does one learn to live with tragedy, not the instant-horror but the emotionally demoralizing, day-to-day variety? We get a different answer from each character. It would seem that therapeutic laughter and games help to remove the paralyzing emotional involvement and permit us to cope and remain sane in an insane situation. But the Halloween brilliance of the play lies in its form which evolves into theatre as circus, as vaudeville, as a place to improvise — a "space", complete with jazz comho, acquired by a clown who discovers the consequences of the games.

James Assad

### SCHEDULE OF PLAYS

Curtain Tuesday-Saturday 8:30 p.m. — Sunday 2:00 p.m.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 17	18	19	20	21	22	23
—	—	TALES	TALES	TALES	TALES	TALES
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
TALES	—	JOE	JOE	TALES	JOE	JOE
31	November 1	2	3	4	5	6
TALES	—	A & N	A & N	JOE	A & N	A & N
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
TALES	—	JOE	A & N	TALES	JOE	A & N
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
TALES	—	A & N	JOE	JOE	A & N	TALES

## the staff

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The FREE FALL is a student publication of Avila College, 11901 Wornall, Kansas City, Missouri, 64145. It does not necessarily represent the views of the administration, faculty, students, or staff.

Those wishing to contribute to the paper in the forms of comments, opinions, articles or news items, may do so by submitting them to the editor or depositing them in the "Letters to the Editor" box in O'Reilly Hall. No letters will be printed without the signature of the writer.





Community players who have been with the cast of "Joe Egg" since its mid-west premiere last year: (left to right) Etta Marie Carlisle, Joanne Rooney Stout, Bob Cole, Sylva Stanley, Sorel Stanley and Equity actor, John Bruce.

## ALT Students Put in A Hard Day's Night

It used to be just an old storage room. Most people didn't even know that it existed. Recently though, it has received an overwhelming amount of attention. Everyone cares about it, even Giles Fowler. But those who have engineered this phenomenon, though not so well known, are a group of fifteen determined Avila students who have given a part of themselves to make Actors Laboratory Theatre a reality.

Actors Laboratory Theatre is the professional name for Avila's acting company. Not only are they Thespians, but also carpenters, electricians, lighting experts, artists, and rug layers...because that empty supply space was donated to them for their theatre AS IT WAS. Last year, renovation was initiated by constructing the seat elevations, upholstering the chairs, and installing them on three sides of the area. Improvements continued this September with building a light and sound projection booth, a ticket booth, new platform flooring, and the paneling just completed last week. At the same time the actors were preparing for STORYBOOK TALES. Rehearsals begin four to six weeks before opening night, so days were spent in the theatre with hammers and paint; the evenings, with costumes and scripts. Terry Bickel, a junior in speech and theatre, itemized their hours, "Seventy hours a week were required just for rehearsals and acting classes. That didn't include the technical work that had to be completed."

How does this dedication to the theatre and its corresponding monopoly of time affect the students? Once in awhile, when the tasks to be completed seem never ending and the lack of equipment haunts their efforts, they become discouraged. Then they turn to Ron Coles for support and encouragement, the technical director who is always there through the long nights and tired days. A graduate of UMKC with a master's in theatre, he has guided all the building and renovation that the students have accomplished. He stressed that Avila's goal was to train professionals, those interested in acting careers, and that both theatrical and technological knowledge is important.

But it is usually cheerful enthusiasm that pervades the acting company. Don Tabberer, sophomore in theatre, explained that "it puts a cramp on social life, but it's just a way of living — the joy of entertaining others, of seeing their cares go away." This same optimism was visibly evident when Mike Shirley, a second-semester junior, showed me the theatre and shop, and introduced me to the people working on the sets. Very noticeable was the warmth and pride — not only of their achievements, but of each other — that exists among the actors. Jamie Evans, a sophomore from Ohio, verbalized the feeling, "the best reward is working together — and when the end of the play comes everyone is hugging everyone."

## Social Workers Attend Seminar

"Top of the Towers" was the meeting place for this year's annual institute of the National Association of Social Workers. Leading the workshop was Mitchell Ginsberg, Dean of the School of Social Work of Columbia University, New York City. Current president of the NASW, Mr. Ginsberg also serves as an advisor and consultant to the Peace Corps, the National Service Corps, and various Head Start programs. His topic of discussion for the two day institute, "SOCIAL WORKER'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR SOCIAL CHANGE," is an appropriate and

relevant issue in today's field of social work.

The workshop was in session on October 28 and 29 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The fee for graduate and undergraduate students was \$10.00 and included two luncheons. Miss Elizabeth Norris of the Avila Social Work Division accompanied the following students to the institute: Jan Page, Kay Smith, Marian Foate, Mike Duhinsky, Marguerite Ross, Kathy Aylward, Terri Gilbert, Susie Reichart, Jan Mergen, Mary Lou Pemberton, and Verna Devine.

## The Halfway House—A New Tomorrow

What happens to the young boy who has repeatedly attempted suicide? Or the 18-year-old girl who is trying to escape the drug scene? Or the alcoholic who finally sees the ravages of drinking on himself and his family? For these people who are disgusted with their destructive lives and want to again become human beings with self-respect and purpose, the difficulties of transition can be overwhelming. Unprepared to face the problems and pressures of the outside world, they are tempted to give up and again rely on their crutches. What can be done to help them?

Sharon Cheers is a member of Thomas Webster's Urban Sociology class which is studying sociological problems in Kansas City. She is using this opportunity to investigate one of the most recent solutions to the dilemma, the halfway house.

According to Sharon, since it is such a new development, the halfway house is still "just feeling its way through." The area's seven houses serve all races and provide an informal, home life living situation, but in many respects, they are as varied as those they serve. Some houses are free, existing primarily from donations; others ask fees. The majority of the houses accept only those with the same type of problem; however, a few administer to cases of drug addiction, alcoholism, and manic depression collectively. Some halfway houses provide only counseling; the rest offer a home with meals, living quarters, and companionship.

They differ in a number of exterior matters, perhaps, but all are striving toward the same goal — to rehabilitate, through individualized therapy, those who want to begin a new life, but are unable to do so by themselves. This, of course, requires tremendous efforts by volunteers, therapists, psychologists,

benefactors, but most importantly, the people themselves.

To obtain personal interviews, Sharon visited the Phoenix House, a refuge for drug users. It is located in an integrated neighborhood on Troost in an old building managed by a young man with a bachelor's degree in psychology. His purpose, he explained, is to be a friend to the patients, offering encouragement and advice, and to be a stabilizing force in the house. Since he doesn't analyze or provide therapy, a master's or doctorate isn't necessary. When medical attention or psychiatry is needed by an individual, he is referred to the proper agency or to the trained professional who visits the house. The volunteer described the typical addict seeking help as young, usually between 20 and 30, and either black or white. Almost an equal number of males and females come to Phoenix asking for drug information or counseling.

At the McCoy House, parolees with an alcoholic problem serve their probation period. William Lindgreen, executive director, stressed the maximum freedom enjoyed by the men while still cooperating with the courts. No locks are on the doors, and their strictest rule is "No drinking," either inside the house or in a public tavern. The three story building in a residential area on Charlotte provides the comforts of home for \$25 a week, and helps the 20 residents find employment or attend classes at UMKC. The men, who are integrated and range from 22-55 years of age, are encouraged to attend movies, participate in discussions, and enjoy the entertainment regularly furnished by the halfway house.

These houses, working in conjunction with many of Kansas City's social and health agencies, offer strength and hope for those striving for a brighter tomorrow.

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*to live is to grow*

**"far away places  
with strange  
sounding names"**

by  
Marilyn Finan

Marilyn Finan is a graduate of Mt. St. Scholastica Academy in Atchison, Kansas, and is beginning her college career at Avila.

"Hey, where are you from?"

Never have I found a question more frustrating to answer, and it seems to be the most popular question to start a conversation at Avila! Usually, in response I simply say, "Ethiopia." It's remarkable, but I can almost visualize what is going on in people's minds. "Ethiopia, huh? That sounds familiar, but where is it?" It must be in Missouri since she's going to Avila. No wait! Maybe it's in Kansas. Mmm... Ethiopia... Hey, Ethiopia is over in Africa somewhere. "You're not really from Ethiopia are you? You sure look American. You're kidding. You've got to be kidding!"

No, I'm not kidding and I am an American citizen besides being a resident of Missouri. But I live in Ethiopia which is a country in northeast Africa — not southeast Kansas.

You may ask why or what are you doing in Ethiopia? It's really quite simple, but may sound rather complicated. My father is employed by Trans World Airlines and works in foreign countries with T.W.A.'s associated airlines.

The first country my family lived in was Saudia Arabia. We lived there for four and a half years. This experience came to an abrupt end with the six-day crisis of the Arab-Israeli War. Then off we went across the Red Sea to Ethiopia.

We arrived in Ethiopia during the "big rains." The word big doesn't fully describe these rains which are real tropical thunderstorms, a thrilling experience to watch through a window, but a soaking experience to encounter. Rarely do you find an Ethiopian without his trusty umbrella, for the rains don't last for an hour or two; they last from morning to night with an occasional two-hour break in the afternoon or early evening.

Our house is about a ten minute drive out of the capital city, Addis Ababa. The neighborhood consists mostly of Americans and Europeans with an Ethiopian community near by. The living conditions are far from being ideal, but they always prove to be interesting. Our house is made of cement brick with a tin roof, but most native Ethiopians live in tukols.

If the electricity is working, the voltage is 220 compared to the U.S. 110. This means we cannot use electrical appliances such as toasters, hair dryers, and coffee pots.

It is customary for American families to hire Ethiopian women to be their "Mamitas." They do the cooking, washing, cleaning, and baby-sitting. Most Mamitas make a few mistakes at first, like ironing clothes inside out, using hand soap to wash dishes, mixing gravy and potatoes in the same bowl before serving them, but they are willing to learn, and when you consider they only get paid \$20 a month for working six days a week, their American employers are more than willing to teach them.

Ethiopian men are hired to be Zabanyas. This is not a custom but a necessity. Their job is to take care of the yard, run errands and act as guards to ward off beggars, thieves and hyenas. The hardest part of their job is to cut the grass which must be done by hand. Addis has very few lawn mowers. It is not uncommon for a small herd of cattle, sheep, or goats to be strolling past our yard, taking an occasional nibble at a rose bush or leafy tree. For this reason and the value the Ethiopians place on privacy, all houses have a wall surrounding the yard.

Most of the social activity you enjoy in the states is found in Addis. There is one 18 hole golf course, several bowling alleys, an olympic size swimming pool, night clubs, various types of restaurants, horseback riding, movies, and we even have a drive-in. All movies are in English with Amharic subtitles.

The downtown area of Addis is quite unique. The stores range from large department stores owned mostly by Italians to the small shacks selling only candy, gum, and cokes. In most stores there is no set price by the government, so half the fun in shopping is bargaining. Since they want to sell their products, compromise is usually possible.

Just during the three years that I have been in Addis I have been a witness to a vast modernization of the city — especially the downtown area. The people have a most powerful urge to improve themselves and their country. Their dedication surpasses that of any other country I've been to. His Imperial Majesty, Haile Selassie I has a goal to move his country forward. He knows that in order to achieve this goal his people must be educated. The country is in the process of expanding the present school system which includes 600 primary and secondary schools, one university and three colleges.

Another form of education is the influence of foreign technicians (Americans) working for the government through private enterprise. My father is an example of such a person. T.W.A. has been training Ethiopians, helping them improve the airline. Now, after 25 years, T.W.A. is pulling out. By 1974, the airline should be working independently of outside help.

Today many people think the U.S. should decrease economic and financial aid to foreign countries. But living overseas has given me a new outlook toward the U. S. policies in foreign affairs. Just in Ethiopia alone, the aid we provide has given them the opportunity to create a country which they are proud to be a part of. This development takes time and costs a tremendous amount of money, but if financial assistance is provided by the U. S., the time element will be shortened considerably.

In today's world time is precious — there seems to be so little of it. There are almost 100 African nations that need help. Can you afford to give them a chance? Time is running out!

## Youth on the Move Register to Vote

Passage of the 26th Amendment giving 18-year-olds the right to vote has also spawned a small but growing number of youthful candidates for public office who hope to capitalize on the voting power of their peers. A growing number of young people have even decided to run for office themselves, and it is possible that soon some youthful alderman will find himself helping to set rules for the sale of alcoholic beverages that he himself cannot legally buy.

The technique for high school and college students to enroll as young voters is fairly simple: as students passed through opening-of-term formalities this fall, many of them found voter registration tables set up on campus. But where a captive audience is not

available, various gimmicks have been devised. Popular music is a favorite. Registration booths have been set up in military recruitment centers, in libraries, parks, and on the sidewalk outside popular movie theaters.

Future registration of college students will depend a great deal, most observers think, on whether they are allowed to register as residents of their college towns. Those who want to see the maximum number of young people registered reason that more college students will enroll if they are not obliged to return to their parents' homes to vote or else obtain an absentee ballot. The outcome of the Presidential sweepstakes among the young will depend in part on the size of the turnout of young voters.



Chet Nichols, singer and musician, will be in concert at Avila on November 15 for two shows at 8 and 9 p.m. Chet has appeared at the Vanguard Coffeehouse, and recently finished a nationwide tour with Brewer & Shipley. He will sing many of his own songs, and play piano, guitar, and harmonica.

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